

**ARKANSAS MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
SMART CORE WAIVER FORM**

Name of Student: _____
Name of Parent/Guardian: _____
Name of District: _____
Name of School: _____

Smart Core is Arkansas's college- and career-ready curriculum for high school students. College and career readiness in Arkansas means that students are prepared for success in entry-level, credit-bearing courses at two-year and four-year colleges and universities, in technical postsecondary training, and in well-paid jobs that support families and have pathways to advancement. To be college and career ready, students need to be adept problem solvers and critical thinkers who can contribute and apply their knowledge in novel contexts and a variety of situations. Smart Core is the foundation for college and career-readiness. All students should supplement additional rigorous coursework within their career focus.

Failure to complete the Smart Core Curriculum for graduation *may* result in negative consequences such as conditional admission to college and ineligibility for some scholarship programs.

STATE MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English – 4 units

- 9th Grade English*
- 10th Grade English*
- 11th Grade English*
- 12th Grade English or Transitional English 12*

Mathematics – 4 units (or 3 units of math and 1 unit of Computer Science)**

- Algebra I (or Algebra I-Part A & Algebra I-Part B - *each may be counted as one unit of the 4-unit requirement*)
- Geometry (or Geometry-Part A & Geometry-Part B - *each may be counted as one unit of the 4-unit requirement*)
(All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.)

Science – 3 units (or 2 units with lab experience and 1 unit of Computer Science)**

- Biology* - 1 unit (All students must have 1 unit in Biology – Integrated, ADE Approved Biology - Integrated, ADE Approved Biology – Integrated Honors, AP Biology, IB Biology, or Concurrent Credit Biology - Integrated.)
- Physical Science*, Chemistry*, or Physics* – at least 1 unit
- other ADE approved science* or ADE approved Computer Science**

Social Studies – 3 units

- Civics* - ½ unit
- World History* - 1 unit
- American History* - 1 unit
- other social studies* – ½ unit

Oral Communications – ½ unit

Physical Education – ½ unit

Health and Safety – ½ unit

Economics and Personal Finance – ½ unit (may be counted toward Social Studies or Career Focus)

Fine Arts – ½ unit

Career Focus – 6 units

Personal Finance* – Beginning with the freshmen class of 2017-18, A.C.A. § 6-16-135 requires students to complete a course that includes specific personal finance standards in either grades 10, 11, or 12.

*Category course options as listed under each applicable subject area in the ADE Course Code Management System

**Computer Science – (optional) A flex unit of an approved Computer Science (any course starting with 465 or 565) may replace the 4th math requirement or the 3rd science requirement. Two distinct units of the approved computer science courses may replace the 4th math requirement and the 3rd science requirement. Once the 4th math requirement and the 3rd science requirements have been met, any additional computer science credits will be recognized as career focus credits.

Each high school student shall be required to take at least one digital learning course for credit to graduate.

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have been informed of the requirements and implementation of the Smart Core Curriculum and am choosing to waive the Smart Core curriculum. I understand the potential negative consequences of this action as outlined on this form.

Parent/Guardian/Adult Student Signature

Date

School Official Signature

Date

Arkansas Department of Education— July 16, 2018